

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Jude 1:3

Like Jude in this passage quoted above, I'd kind of hoped I would be able to be sweet and non-confrontational with the message from Mark this morning, especially in light of last Sunday's hard message about the need for Christ to reform His church. After all, my personal preference is to speak kind words of encouragement more often than I gave hard words of warning. But because my conscience is help captive to the Word of God, and because it is more important for your spiritual health that I be true to Scripture rather than merely make an attempt to please you or myself in what I say, I know what I must do.

This morning's passage in Mark 11:11-21 continues the theme we began last week, but with a more specific application. Whereas last week's message dealt with the need for biblical reformation within the church, this morning's will focus on our need, individually and as a congregation, to have a faith that is genuinely fixed upon Christ alone rather than a religion focused on the self.

What a warning we find here against holding to worthless religion! How necessary it is for us who profess faith in Christ to see that our hope truly is "*built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.*" But how easy it is to trust instead in the arm of flesh and to put stock in our own prayers and professions and religious activities!

It is, thus, my earnest desire this morning that God will use this message to bring conviction to each of us that it is Christ alone in His finished work that we must trust, and not the effort or accomplishments of our own hands. May God so work this life-transforming faith deep into the hearts of each one of us.

Pastor Scott

PS - Pray as the Jefferson Baptist Association meets this afternoon and tonight.